



Hudson Valley View



A newsletter for and by employees of the VA Hudson Valley Health Care System

VOLUME V



2009 School at Work (SAW) Graduation

Front - Barbara Hamm, Tanya Daniels, Stephen Williams, Mr. Culliton, Director, Michelle Adams, Gail Fulton, and William Hankins

Back - Juanita Stephenson, Bette Merrill (coach), Terry Moultry, William Walker, Cuyler Reddy Jr., Tony Perkins, Michelle Jefferson, Lawanda Miller, Lillian Diana-Rodriguez, and coaches Kathy Mones and Valerie Johnson

Not present - Rachel Williams, Viola Adams and coaches Earnest Cooke and Laura Parker-Bey

Congratulations Graduates!

2009 Possibilities Graduates

Left to right: Lori Lawton, Dasy Jones, Jennifer Nemeth, Heather Scarpelli, Omayra Bedward, Michael Kelly, Kathy Mones, Educational Services Specialist, Angel Delgado, Aida Anderson, Sharon Tinsley, Wanda Robinson and Robin Miket (not present-Mel Woods)



VISN 3 Bridges to the Future Graduate

Carol Robinson



Northeast Health Care Leadership Graduates

Vineesh Bhatnagar, MD, Geriatric and Extended Care Line Manager, and Beverly Dunklee, PhD, Education Program Manager



VA Hudson Valley's Shining Stars!

CASTLE POINT



Mr. Culliton with Shining Star Kristin Coughlin, Ambulatory Care and Dr. Greenwell, Ambulatory Care Line Manager

MONTROSE



John Downey, Chief EMS, Mr. Culliton with Shining Stars Laron Edmonds, EMS, and Ray Uhrlass, Ambulatory Care, Ed Ruffin, EMS and Mr. Grady, Associate Director



Dr. Steven Greenwell, Ambulatory Care Line Manager with Shining Star Dr. Duane Crowther, Dental Program and Mr. Culliton



Mark Lombardo, Marilyn Firestone-Burton with Shining Star Luke Huggard, RN, Mr. Culliton, Dr. Joseph Amato, and Kathleen Merando Barker, RN

National VHA Awards

2009 VHA Under Secretary for Health Award for Excellence in Social Work Practice

Linda Spencer, LCSW,
Pain Management and
Palliative Care Social
Worker



Outstanding Service to Homeless Veterans Award



Paul Smits, Associate Chief Consultant Homeless and Residential Rehabilitation Programs, Henrietta Fishman, MSW and Secretary Shinseki.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:

Hudson Valley Embraces The Secretary's Goal to Eliminate Veteran Homelessness

In the most recent VA budget proposal over 4 billion dollars was designated to reduce and prevent homelessness among Veterans. The Secretary of the VA has said that he has set a goal of zero homelessness among Veterans.

According to VA on a typical night, about 131,000 Veterans are homeless. They represent every war and generation, from the "Greatest Generation" to the latest generation of Veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The VA healthcare system operates the largest system of homeless treatment and assistance programs in the nation.

In the Hudson Valley we see Veterans who for many reasons have reached this place in their lives. But the good news is that the Hudson Valley has an amazing comprehensive continuum of care for finding, treating and reestablishing Veterans into a productive life. You can all be proud that you work for the Hudson Valley VA because preventing and ending homelessness among Veterans has been one of the hallmarks of what we do everyday. No matter what your job or volunteer assignment you add to the success of this vital mission. Also adding to this mission are our incredible community partners across seven counties - that work with us to ensure every Veteran gets a full range of care, training and housing options.

We have a ways to go to reach the Secretary's important goal – but Hudson Valley is one VA that has always had this goal and will continue to work hard on behalf of our Veterans who are in such critical need. ~ Gerry

National Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration



September 15 to October 15 was National Hispanic Heritage Month. The ceremony was held at Castle Point on October 2 and at Montrose on October 15. The guest speaker at both campuses was Sergio Morales, a Vietnam War Veteran and currently a member of the Board of Directors of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in Vails Gate, NY. He was also the first Hispanic to serve as its Chapter Commander. One highlight at Castle Point featured Nydia Febus-Rodriguez who invited Associate Director, John Grady to dance the *Flamenco* with her to the delight of the crowd. At Montrose, Engineering's Tyrone Ferreira and friends performed *Oye Como Va*;

a song made famous by Carlos Santana. There were also food tasting and displays of artifacts.



Viewing of Castle Point's H2 Construction



Mr. Michael Sabo, VISN 3 Network Director, Mr. Culliton, VA Hudson Valley Director and Mr. John Cliffe, Chief of Engineering

VA HVHCS Going Green!



Above - Electric Car at Montrose campus

Below - VA Hudson Valley's Green Team (l to r): Sheryle Harris, Kathy Nagwak, Marilyn Brammer, Katie Redder, William Kinyon, Christina Reiss, Marwan Fanek, Laura Vandorn and Dan Mata.

Not present - Dasdy Jones, Emmanuel Onyeobia, Joan Rowlands, Cheryl Scheffler and Kathleen Smith



VA Hudson Valley participating in the Alzheimer's Memory Walk

Kimberly Allison, Lori Lawton, George Moustakas, Veronica Mangieri, Vickie Mussalli, Mary Mussalli, George Mussalli, Sheryl Small, and pups Buckles and Espn



Veterans Job Fair at Castle Point

Congressman John Hall speaks with representatives from Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union.



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